

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----170834Z 109648 /12

R 170658Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3923
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION UN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 2835

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PGON, SW, XA, NO
SUBJECT: NORDIC INTEREST IN AND CONSULTATION ON SOUTHERN
AFRICAN PROBLEMS

REFS: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 2256 (B) COPENHAGEN 3402 (C) STOCKHOLM 2568

SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE THAT USEFUL STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT BY THE GON ON U.S. SOUTHERN AFRICAN
POLICY. MOST USEFUL WOULD BE CONSULTATIONS IN OSLO IN AUGUST
BETWEEN U.S. AND GON POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS BEFORE THE NORDIC
FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING PRIOR TO THE UNGA. ADDITIONALLY,
REGULAR BILATERAL CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN
CAPITALS, WASHINGTON AND AT POSTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD
GREATLY REINFORCE U.S. VIEWS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE NORDIC
COUNCIL OR ITS AFFILIATED BODIES LEND THEMSELVES TO SUCH
FOREIGN POLICY EXCHANGES. END SUMMARY.

1. WE NOTED WITH INTEREST DAR ES SALAAM'S TELEGRAM 2256
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OBSERVING NORDIC INTEREST IN U.S. SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY
INITIATIVES, STEPS AMBASSADOR IS TAKING THERE TO KEEP HIS
NORDIC COLLEAGUES INFORMED AND QUESTIONS ABOUT WAYS TO
ENCOURAGE NORDIC SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICY AND INITIATIVES IN
THIS AREA. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE NORWEGIANS, AND
NO DOUBT OTHER NORDICS, ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN SOUTHERN
AFRICAN ISSUES AND THEY ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH RECENT

INITIATIVE U.S. HAS TAKEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN SUPPORT OF MAJORITY RULE. SO LONG AS U.S. CONTINUES TO EXERT EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL WIN GON SUPPORT. INDEED WE MAY NEED AT TIMES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE GON GETTING OUT AHEAD OF WHERE WE WANT TO BE, PARTICULARLY IN SUPPORT OF SPECIFIC LIBERATION GROUPS OR INITIATIVES, SUCH AS BOYCOTT ACTIONS.

2. WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH OBSERVATIONS MADE IN COPENHAGEN'S TELEGRAM 3402 AND STOCKHOLM'S 2568 ON THE POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL USE OF NORDIC MACHINERY TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT HERE FOR U.S. SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY FOR THE U.S. TO IMPACT ON GON THINKING ON AFRICAN ISSUES IS TO KEEP APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ON OUR THINKING, PLANS AND INITIATIVES.

3. THE BEST FORUMS TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS ARE BILATERAL ONES, THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH GON OFFICIALS EITHER IN WASHINGTON, HERE IN OSLO, OR AT U.S. POSTS IN OTHER PLACES. THE SINGLE BEST MEANS IN OUR VIEW IS TO MAKE SURE THE GON WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE BILATERAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE AUGUST AND APRIL FOREIGN MINISTER MEETINGS IN NORDIC CAPITALS ARE APPRISED OF US VIEWS BEFORE THESE MEETINGS. AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOLLOW-UP STEP IS TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE HE ATTENDS THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS. THE FALL SESSION IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THIS IS WHEN THE NORDICS TRY TO WORK OUT THEIR VIEWS AND COORDINATE THEM WHERE POSSIBLE

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FOR THE UNGA. THIS IS A KEY DECISION TIME FOR THE GON.

4. CLEARLY THE BEST APPROACH TO INFLUENCING THE GON IS TO HAVE A POLICY-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT OSLO IN AUGUST BEFORE THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING TO DISCUSS U.S. THINKING ON THE UNGA AND RELATED ISSUES. A U.S. VISITOR AT THAT TIME OFTEN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND NORWAY'S UN AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFFLE SUCCESSFULLY DID THIS IN 1974 BUT HIS VALUABLE EFFORT HAS NOT BEEN CONTINUED. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED SUCH VISITS IN THE PAST AND AGAIN REEMPHASIZE OUR ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS IN OUR ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENTS (OSLO 1540). OTHER NORDIC EMBASSIES HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED SUCH BILATERAL TALKS.

5. ALSO WE FIND AN AUGUST TOUR D'HORIZON DISCUSSION BETWEEN EMBASSY AND MFA OFFICIALS ON UNGA ISSUES BASED ON MATERIAL PREPARED BY DEPT AND USUN A VALUABLE BACK-UP TO A POLICY LEVEL VISIT.

6. ADDITIONALLY WE SHOULD SEEK TO RESPOND READILY TO SUBJECTS IN WHICH THE GON AND OTHER NORDICS EXPRESS A PARTICULAR INTEREST, AS WE DID LAST YEAR WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND ASKED FOR MORE DETAILED BACKGROUND ON U.S. SOUTHERN AFRICAN POSITIONS. WE SHOULD MAKE AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT TO TRY TO KEEP THE INFORMATION FLOW ON SUCH ISSUES ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS, RATHER THAN AS A ONE-SHOT AFFAIR. WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP THE DEPT REMINDED OF THESE NEEDS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD.

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 2835

EXDIS

7. REGULAR BRIEFINGS ON U.S. POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTS BY U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE SPOT, SUCH AS THOSE AMBASSADOR SPAIN IS CONDUCTING IN DAR ES SALAAM ARE EXTREMELY VALUABLE. MFA OFFICIALS HERE ARE VERY ALERT TO THE OBSERVATIONS AND REPORTS OF THEIR OWN OFFICIALS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

8. IN OUR VIEW THE U.S. SHOULD NOT SEEK TO USE OTHER NORDIC INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE NORDIC COUNCIL, FOR WORKING WITH THE NORWEGIANS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. THE NORDIC COUNCIL IS THE WRONG FORUM. IT IS AN ADVISORY BODY PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH COOPERATION IN COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST - IN ECONOMIC, TRANSPORTATION, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FIELDS. IT IS NOT THE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY AND TO THE EXTENT IT

HAS BEEN USED FOR SUCH TALK IN THE RECENT YEARS THE GON
HAS NOT WELCOMED THE DEVELOPMENT. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY STOCKHOLM--
AND KNOW THAT AT LEAST THE NORWEGIANS--WOULD RESENT U.S.
APPROACHES TO THIS COMMON NORDIC INSTITUTION ON POLITICAL
QUESTIONS.
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9. ONE FINAL OBSERVATION. THE ABOVE REMARKS HAVE BEEN
ADDRESSED TO DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES AND COULD
BE EXTENDED TO A BROADER RANGE OF UN RELATED TOPICS. BUT
WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT CHOOSE THE ABOVE MEANS TO DEAL WITH
THE GON ON SECURITY RELATED ISSUES. HERE IT IS CLEAR THE
NORDIC COUNTRIES HAVE DIVERGENT APPROACHES TO THE KEY ISSUES.
NATO AND OTHER FORUMS AND CHANNELS ARE CLEARLY THE AVENUES FOR
SUCH EXCHANGES, AND IT WOULD, IN OUR VIEW BE INADVISABLE, EVEN
HARMFUL, TO SEEK TO DEAL WITH THE NORDICS AS A GROUP ON SECURITY
MATTERS AS WE MIGHT ON SOME OF THE UN RELATED MATTERS.
ANDERS

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